Baldcypress/Tupelo Coastal Forest, Pontchartrain Basin

1. Project Title: Baldcypress/Tupelo Coastal Forest, Pontchartrain Basin

2. Entity/Individual nominating the project: Livingston Parish Government

3. Contact Information (Name, Address, Telephone, Email):

Project Contact: Karla Cormier on behalf of: Mike Grimmer

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4. Total CIAP Funds Requested: \$1,494,836

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Item #	Work or Material	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Amount
1	Land Acquisition	1762	acres	\$595	\$1,048,390
2	Creation/Enhancement of signage	1	contract	\$55,000.00	\$55,000
3	Environmental Assessment	1	contract	\$30,000.00	\$30,000
4	Land man (abstract of title)	1	contract	\$5,000	\$5,000
5	Contract Attorney (title opinion)	1	contract	\$3,000	\$3,000
6	Contract Appraiser (appraisal)	1	contract	5600	\$5,600
	Estimated Cost of Construction				\$1,146,990
Estimated Cost of Construction + 25% contingency				\$286,748	\$1,433,738
7	State Attorney	1	project length	\$409.04	\$409
8	Land Manager	1	project length	\$3,338.86	\$3,339
	Livingston Parish Project Administration during				
9	grant period	1	project length	\$57,350.00	\$57,350
	Total Project				\$1,494,836

Long-term Management of Project will be administered thru Wildlife & Fisheries

5. Infrastructure Funds Proposed:

\$0.00 this is an environmental project

6. Description and Location of Project:

Location is 1,762 contiguous acres of coastal wetland forest, specifically baldcypress-tupelo forest, with roughly 200 acres fronting the western edge of Lake Maurepas. The area is identified as Tract#44 and lies within the Pontchartrain Basin and is within the Louisiana CELCP Plan Area. Lakes Maurepas, Pontchartrain and Borgne are brackish water lakes and together form a receiving basin for the fresh waters of the Amite, Tickfaw, Blind, Tangipahoa, Tchefuncte, and Pearl Rivers. The target area is within Livingston Parish, State of Louisiana, and is situated in the Maurepas Basin, southeast Louisiana. See attached map.

Project Problem: Louisiana's coastal forested wetlands quickly become the last geographic barrier that serve to protect the coastal communities against devastating swamp storms and hurricanes. Without this project and preservation of the targeted 1,762 acres of baldcypress-tupelo, this land will be converted, logged, and lost.

Project Goals: 1) Conserve the 1,762 acres of pristine wetland habitat while working to conserve the natural heritage of the area; 2) manage the coastal resource for the public to enjoy and cherish as an aesthetic area for recreation; 3) Protect the habitat against future logging developments.

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Project Solution: Purchase 1,762 acres from an interested landowner who is committed to this project. Negotiations are underway with the landowner; however, no purchase agreement has been signed, nor is there an appraisal or title opinion.

By purchasing this acreage, this project will preserve the baldcypress/tupelo within this coastal area. The Partners in this project are the LA Dept of Natural Resources, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (responsible for management, conservation and protection of land and all its intrinsic qualities for the public), the Nature Conservancy, The Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Office of State Lands. This project has also been submitted to the Louisiana Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan.

- 7. Project Type: Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetland & Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- 8. Project Justification: This project is supported by the Livingston Parish Waterway Commission. It has been a LCELC candidate. Attached is information that was provided to LCELC. The owner of this land has timbering rights and is committed to this project; however, if this project is not funded, then the owner may consider the many offers to sell the timbering rights to timber companies who will destroy the habitat. The Coastal Zone Management Plan promotes purchasing land that will serve to protect, conserve, and enhance the resource. Managing the area for the public would ensure that the natural resources found within this unique ecosystem could be shared by all.
- 9. Project cost share (Types and amounts of non-CIAP funds proposed, if any): This project is 100% CIAP funding at the parish level, with any difference in funding being requested through a State CIAP Partnership.